

The Pinturas Canyon Experience

Let the wild discover you



The Pinturas Canyon Experience connects you with the wilds of the Patagonian steppe.

The adventure begins with the search for the spectacular primeval wildlife through a network of almost 10 miles of trails that traverse deep canyons, breathtaking cliffs, and striking colors.

Follow the tracks of ancestral hunter-gatherers that painted fantastic rock art in Cueva de las Manos, Alero Charcamata, and other archaeological sites. The team of Rewilding Argentina works in the area to restore the health and splendor of the Patagonian steppe ecosystem. They aim to increase population numbers and provide opportunities for wildlife watching in an environment with restored dynamics of species interaction and migrations.

"La Posta de Los Toldos" is a place to rest between the different activities you can do in the area. It offers nine shared bedrooms, warm food, access to cozy common areas, and a kitchen in a friendly mountain hut atmosphere. La Posta is also a hub for hiking trails, wildlife watching excursions, and star-gazing.

"La Posta"

An oasis to rest on the way to the canyons

La Posta de Los Toldos provides shelter in the deep Patagonian steppe. It offers nine shared bedrooms, warm food, access to cozy common areas, and a kitchen in a friendly mountain hut atmosphere. Outdoor fireplaces are available, but camping is not allowed.

La Posta is a place to team up with other visitors or guides for excursions to nearby trails and wildlife watching. It is also ideal for taking in the silence and solitude and learning about Patagonia's night sky.

Open every day from 8 am to 10 pm.
Book at: reservas@rewildingexperience.com

[f @apostadestoldos](https://www.instagram.com/apostadestoldos)

Rewilding Pinturas Canyon



PUMA, COUGAR, or MOUNTAIN LION (*Puma concolor*) THE ECOSYSTEM'S ARCHITECT

Pumas are felines able to adapt to different environments and prey, which allowed them to be the predator species with the most extensive distribution in the Americas. The puma weighs up to 90 kg and is an excellent ambush hunter. In this region, the guanaco is its main prey. It regulates the number of medium-sized herbivores and carnivores, with a positive impact on flora and fauna and health of the Patagonian steppe ecosystem.

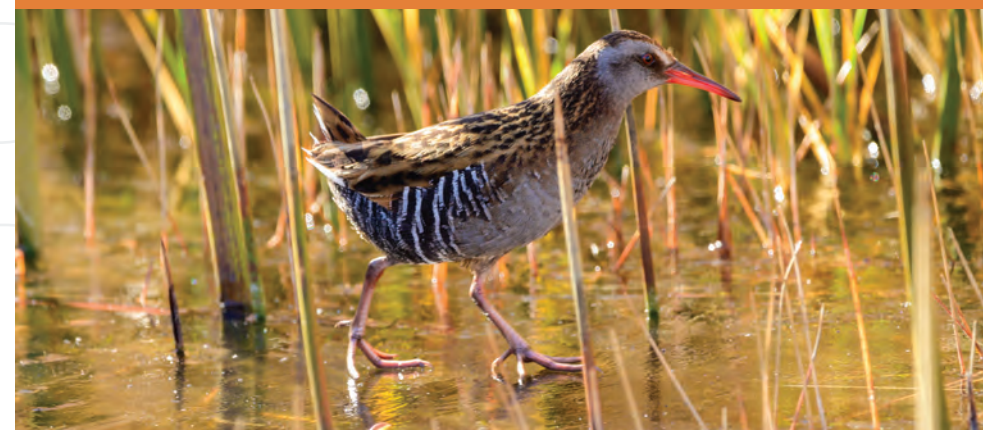
In the Pinturas Canyon, the Rewilding Argentina team studies the dynamics and ecological role of this great predator. Their work contributes to highlighting the importance of this species. Spotting a puma is a unique natural experience: Enjoy it. If you encounter one at a short-range distance, raise your arms to look bigger and walk away calmly facing the puma all the time.



GUANACO (*Lama guanicoe*) THE ANCESTRAL PATAGONIAN MIGRATOR

The guanaco is a South American camelid of diurnal habits, and the largest herbivore in Patagonia, weighing up to 280 lb —130 kg. During the summer, it forms small family groups composed of a dominant male, several females, and their offspring. The guanaco held utmost importance in the human occupation of Patagonia, having shaped native Americans' culture and way of life for over nine thousand years. In winter, they can be seen in groups of hundreds of individuals, although their populations have declined significantly in recent decades.

The Rewilding Argentina team is working to restore the large populations and the dynamics of the spectacular migrations of this species between their summer grazing lands, located on the plateaus and the wintering sites, located in the canyons and lowlands.



AUSTRAL RAIL (*Rallus antarcticus*) HIDING IN THE REEDS

This little-known water-fowl inhabits some wetlands of the Patagonian steppe. It was believed to be locally extinct in the area. It feeds on invertebrates that it finds among the reeds and spends most of the time walking in shallow water and darting for cover. In favorable conditions, it manages to incubate and raise offspring twice in the summer. It is rarely seen flying and appears to migrate north to unknown destinations during harsh winters.

The Rewilding Argentina team seeks to restore to health the degraded reed-covered lagoons and to reintroduce individuals and generate new populations in areas from where Austral Rail has vanished. The team expects to reach a better understanding of its migratory routes and habits in Patagonia through the monitoring of individuals.



ANDEAN CONDOR (*Vultur gryphus*) THE LOOKOUT OF THE ANDES

Condors are the largest flying birds on earth, reaching 9 ft —3 m— of wingspan and 28 lb —13 kg— in weight. A condor can fly hundreds of kilometers on the same day. To cover such distance, it uses rising currents of air.

Adults are black with white feathers around the neck and on the back of the wings. The head has no feathers. Condors are scavengers and can eat up to 11 lb —5 kg— of carion in one day, having a significant role in keeping diseases from spreading through the ecosystem.

The Rewilding Argentina team works to stop the use of poisons for the indiscriminate control of predators, which causes massive deaths of this magnificent bird.



WOLFFSOHN'S MOUNTAIN VISCACHA (*Lagidium wolffsohni*) THE CANYON'S LOOKOUT

This rodent weighing up to 8 lb —3.5 kg— has a limited distribution in the west of Santa Cruz and neighboring areas of Chile. It is locally described as "squirrel" and lives in the rocks and cracks of canyons and cliffs, feeding on the small plants that grow near their shelters. During the day, it sunbathes in exposed areas, becoming more active at night.

The Rewilding Argentina team aims to help recover the populations of this species in rocky outcrops from where it has disappeared due to human activity, especially hunting.



LESSER RHEA (*Rhea pennata*) THE STEPPE'S SPEEDSTER

It is the second-largest running bird in the Americas, up to one meter in height and weighing up to 60 lb —30 kg. Flightless, it feeds mainly on plants of the Patagonian steppe. The male incubates the eggs laid by several females and raises the young, locally known as "charos" or "charitos."

The Rewilding Argentina team works to reduce the threats that have caused the decline of this species in Patagonia Park, and to re-establish populations in areas from where it has vanished.

Ancestral Culture of Patagonia



CUEVA DE LAS MANOS PROVINCIAL PARK

The Cueva de las Manos archaeological site in the namesake Provincial Park features 9,000-year-old rock art depicting handprints, hunting scenes, native fauna, and abstract figures. Hunter-gatherers inhabited the main cave and surrounding overhangs above the breathtaking river canyon at different times for about seven thousand years. It is the most important archaeological site in Patagonia and was designated a World Heritage Cultural Site by UNESCO in 1999.

Guided tours every hour between 9 am and 7 pm, seven days a week.
<https://www.cuevadelasmanos.org/>

ALERO CHARCAMATA Archaeological site. Exploring a remote and pristine canyon.

This historical and cultural heritage site featuring 5,000-year-old rock art depicts pregnant female guanacos, rheas with offspring, human figures, handprints, and enigmatic paintings in a massive open cave.

It is accessed only with small guided excursions organized by:
<https://www.zoyenturismo.com.ar/>

Rewilding THE PINTURAS CANYON LANDS

Restoring wildlife in the heart of Patagonia



The area around the canyons of the Pinturas river is a unique environment of unrivaled beauty and biodiversity. Breathtaking cliffs of up to 900 feet rise spectacularly from the shores of the life-giving Pinturas river that flows from the high plateau known as Meseta Lago Buenos Aires.

Many of the emblematic species of this environment have vanished, or their populations have decreased significantly. The canyon wetlands are biodiversity islands and home to hundreds of birds in the arid steppe. But their size has been reduced. They have lost part of their diversity due to human intervention and the presence of exotic plant species.

An innovative Rewilding Project is being carried out to recover the health and splendor of the ecosystem. A team of experts from the Rewilding Argentina is based in the Research Station at El Unco to survey, study and restore the primitive wildlife species of the Patagonian steppe.

Pinturas Canyon Gateway

» Tierra de Colores Trail:

Vibrant colors and otherworldly landscapes are hidden in this easy trail that takes you into a gully of striking colors. Slightly more demanding is a trail extension to see the gully from above and to observe the surrounding plateaus and the snow-capped Cerro San Lorenzo.

- Distance: 4.8 km (3 mi) return
- Estimated time: 1 hour and 45 minutes return
- Trail difficulty rating: Stage 1 easy
- Trail difficulty rating: Stage 1 + 2 moderate

» Koi Trail Sumich plateau ascent 978 m

The trail follows a track that gains height towards the northern edge of Meseta Sumich. On the way before the final climb, you will pass a lagoon with native birds. The viewpoint reached helps understand the geology of typical basaltic plateaus in Patagonia. Part of Meseta Lago Buenos Aires can be seen to the west.

- Distance: 4.8 km (3 mi) return
- Estimated time: 1 hour and 45 minutes return
- Trail difficulty rating: moderate

» Los Toldos Trail across the Canyon

Walk back in time along the trail that descends into the Pinturas Canyon, offering an impressive perspective of the Cave of the opposite side. You may hear or spot the endemic Wolffsohn's viscacha that lives in the cliffs. A metallic footbridge takes you across the river, and a trail climbs to the Visitors' Center in Cueva de las Manos Provincial Park where the guided groups start the visit to the archaeological site.

- Distance: 2.6 km (1.6 mi) return
- Estimated time: 1 hour and 30 minutes return (visit to archaeological site not included)
- Trail difficulty rating: moderate

» La Guanaca Trail Cerro Amarillo ascent 854 m

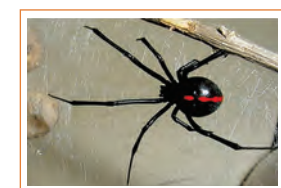
This trail leads to a panoramic summit where you may spot soaring Andean Condors, with a breathtaking backdrop of the cliffs around Cueva de las Manos, the Caracoles Canyon, and a vast horizon towards the south.

- Distance: 3.8 km (2.3 mi) return
- Estimated time: 1 hour and 45 minutes return
- Trail difficulty rating: moderate

» Hiking advice:

- Carry enough water and food. Avoid hiking on your own.
- Wear a hat and appropriate footwear. Take sunscreen and warm clothing.
- Stay on the signposted trail, watch fauna from a safe distance and leave no trace.

» Spiders:



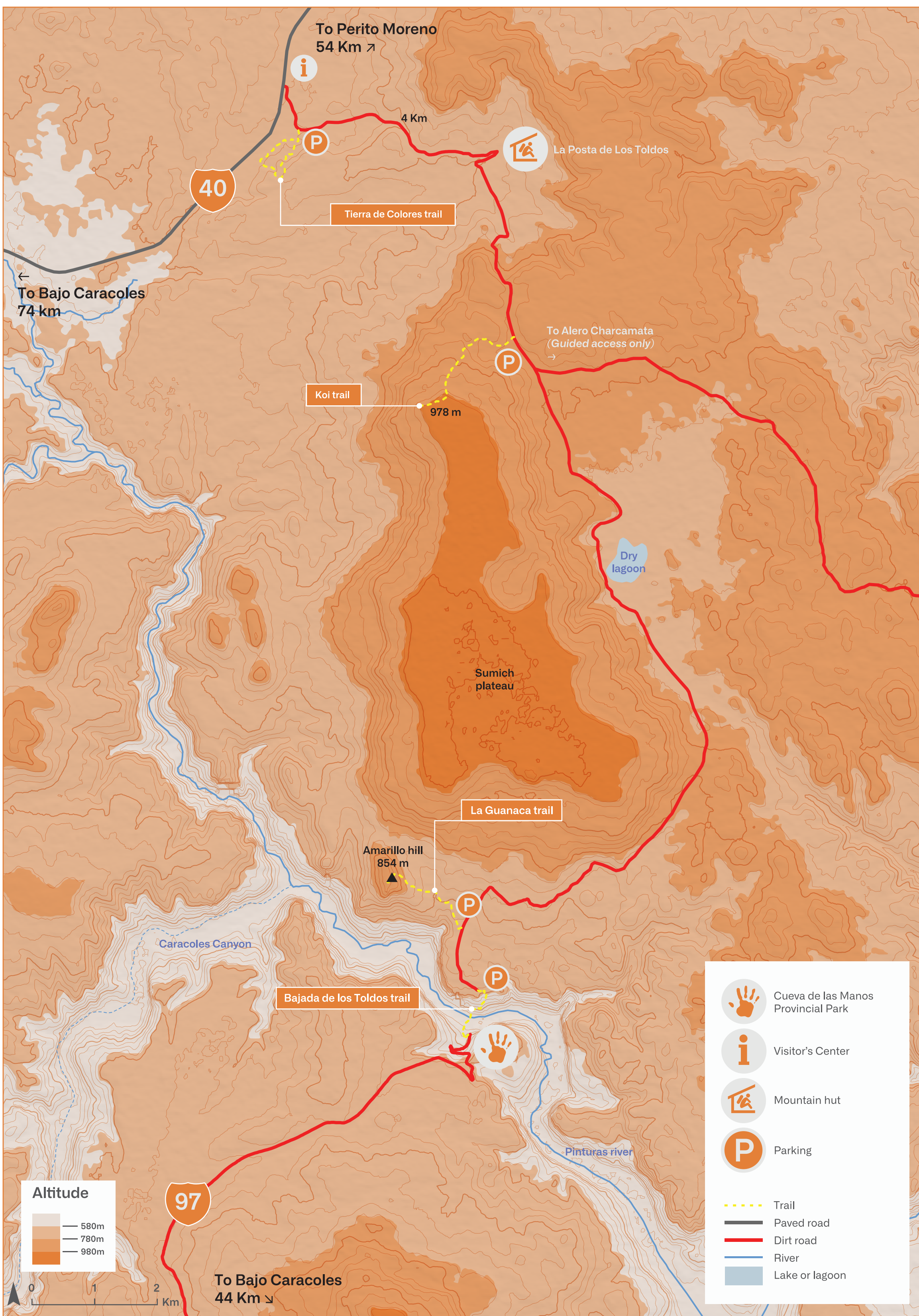
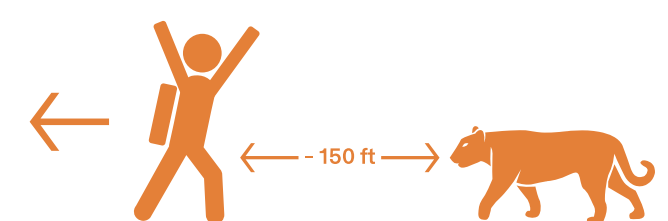
POISONOUS
Widow spider
Viuda Negra patagónica
(*Latrodectus mirabilis*)

What to do if a sting is suspected?

- Wash the wound with soap and water only.
- Unfasten clothes, remove rings and bracelets, etc.
- Cool the area with ice or water as soon as possible.
- Keep calm and ask for help immediately.

» Pumas:

Spotting a puma is a unique natural experience: Enjoy it. If you encounter a puma at a distance shorter than 50 meters, raise your arms to look bigger and walk away calmly facing the puma all the time.



LOCATION AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Pinturas Canyon Experience - Patagonia Park Circuit
National Route 40, 54 km south of Perito Moreno and 74 km north of Bajo Caracoles.
Open every day from 8 am to 8 pm.

YOU ARE ENTERING A WILDERNESS AREA UNDER YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. FOR YOUR SAFETY AVOID RISKS AND ENJOY THE PINTURAS CANYON EXPERIENCE.

- It is mandatory to log your entry at the Visitors' Center
- Before starting the tour, enquire about weather and road conditions.
- Pets are not allowed.
- Drive carefully, responsibly, and within speed limits.
- Stay on vehicle roads and park only in designated areas.
- Do not stray from signposted trails.
- Lighting fires is not permitted, except in authorized places.
- Take into account closing times when planning your excursion.
- Don't forget to bring water, appropriate footwear, and warm clothes. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen.
- Leave no trace.
- Nature sounds prevail in this experience. Keep noise levels down.
- Return with your waste and dump it in designated places.
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance. Do not chase or feed animals. Wildlife defends itself if it feels threatened.

Access Map:

